

INTRODUCTION

This plan is a guide for action. The City of Midland endeavors to fulfill the changing recreational needs of its residents and views the development of its parks, open space, recreational facilities, and recreational programming as a priority. To that end, this document forms the basis to guide policy for implementation of improvements and new initiatives that will meet the recreational goals and interests of the Midland community.

Before any recreational plan is adopted, it is first important to understand what the needs of the residents are, what recreational opportunities already exist, and what sort of projects are relevant for residents based on age, ability, population, density, and the availability of recreational opportunities in neighboring communities. This plan, through the cooperation of Spicer Group and the City of Midland, has carefully considered input and suggestions via active communication from City residents, City officials, and residents from outlying jurisdictions. This input is a critical component to this plan, and together, the voices of Midland and the broader community have united to focus on projects that will enhance the quality of life for everyone.

Broadly speaking, Midland officials intend to use this plan to guide their work on all future recreational and parks projects within the City. It is also a strategic document to articulate specific goals to various agencies and organizations that fund local recreational and parks improvement projects. Specifically, this plan is developed in accordance with the guidelines for community recreation plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). A five-year, MDNR approved recreation plan is necessary for the City of Midland to pursue MDNR administered grants.

